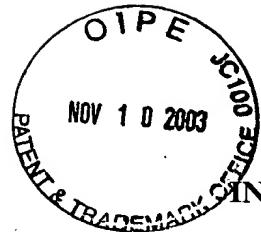


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q59149

Shinichi IRISAWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/599,726

Group Art Unit: 2879

Confirmation No.: 9228

Examiner: Roy, Sikha

Filed: June 23, 2000

For: ARC TUBE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREFOR

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 8, 2003, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith on the accompanying pages.

REMARKS**Status of the Application**

Claims 2-7 are all the claims pending in the Application. Claims 2-7 have been rejected.

Obviousness Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2 38 823 A to Ohshima et al. (hereinafter "GB '823") in view of Honda et al. (US 6,249,086). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that GB '823 was published on December 29, 1999, which is *after* this Application's priority date of June 25, 1999 (based on Japanese Application 11-180411;

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hereinafter "JP '411"). Accordingly, Applicants perfect this Application's claim to priority by submitting herewith a certified English translation of JP '411.

Thus, GB '823 no longer qualifies as prior art to this Application, and this rejection is invalid on its face.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 2-7.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 10, 2003